

Citizens Union Protests Hylan Fund Juggling

Charges Money Were Transferred From Board of Education to Create a "False Emergency" There

Law Circumvention Seen

That Is Only Department in Which Issue of Special Bonds Is Not Limited

The Citizens Union, in a statement issued last night, charges the Hylan administration with ignoring the "plain requirements of the law enacted to safeguard the city's finances" in the methods recently adopted to make up the deficiencies in city departments toward the close of the year. Funds were transferred from the Board of Education to create a "false emergency" in the educational department which could be made up by the issue of special revenue bonds.

The Hylan administration has recently given considerable publicity to accounts of its ingenious and heroic devices for handling the city funds in order to avoid a suspension of governmental activities," the statement said. "One series of recent transactions throws a flood of light on the administration's methods. The city charter limits to \$2,000,000 the amount of special revenue bonds which may be issued in any one year to meet requirements for general city purposes not provided in the budget. The state education law, however, sets no limit on the amount of such bonds which may be issued 'to meet emergencies which may arise' in the department of education's finances.

Charges Deliberate Transfer

The Hylan administration has therefore deliberately resorted to the device of creating an 'emergency' in the Board of Education's finances by transferring funds from it to other city purposes in order to create the issue of special bonds to finance the fictitious emergency thus created in education finances.

On November 16 last George J. Ryan, president of the Board of Education, found that \$816,000, an originally appropriated, chiefly for salaries and wages in the Department of Education, was in excess of his requirements for these purposes. He therefore asked the Board of Estimate to transfer that amount so that it might be otherwise available for teachers' salaries, the funds for which were insufficient to carry the force to the end of the year. The Board of Estimate, however, urged Mr. Ryan to consent to the transfer of his surplus, for the payment of teachers' salaries but for general city purposes, and he complied. Thus the 'emergency' in educational funds was created. On December 16 last the Board of Estimate, pursuant to a request of the Board of Education to meet this 'emergency,' authorized the

issue of special revenue funds in the sum of \$1,800,000 to pay salaries in the day and evening elementary and high schools.

Saw Law Was Circumvented

"Plainly the law was circumvented. Mr. Ryan's original request was a legitimate one, and compliance with it would have eliminated all or nearly all need for the bond issue. But the administration had created deficits in other city appropriations, which could not be met legally by further bond issues. Hence the device of creating a false emergency in the needs of the Board of Education and financing it by a bond issue which could be legally authorized only in the case of a genuine emergency.

"Moreover, \$341,000 of the \$516,000 surrendered by the Board of Education was transferred to the appropriation for tax deficiency, which had been palpably insufficient from the outset. But the charter, Section 237, expressly provides that transfers to that fund may not be made until at least sixty days after the expiration of the fiscal year. The Hylan administration has thus once more ignored the plain requirements of the law enacted to safeguard the city's finances."

Seven Picked Up Adrift

HAVANA, Dec. 27.—Seven members of the crew of the American steamship *Victorious* reached port today after having been adrift since Christmas Day, when they left their ship at Cardenas in a small boat on a short pleasure trip. The strong currents carried the boat far from shore and the men were suffering from hunger and thirst when towed into port.

Going On To-day

DAY

American Museum of Natural History; admission free.

Metropolitan Museum of Art; admission free.

Aquarium; admission free.

Brooklyn Museum; admission free.

New York Historical Society; admission free.

Van Cortlandt Park Museum; admission free.

Zoological Park; admission free.

Hall of Fame at New York University; University Heights; admission free.

Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, Broadway and 154th Street; admission free.

Exhibition of color sketches, Community Church house, Park Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street; admission free.

Luncheon of Columbia University alumni, Columbia University Club, 12:30 o'clock.

Convention of National Association of Teachers of Speech, New York University; all day.

Convention of National Association of Music Teachers, Hotel Pennsylvania, 10 o'clock.

Christmas festival given by Bureau of Recreation, Palm Garden, 2:15 o'clock.

Luncheon meeting of Exchange Club, Hotel Breunlin, 12:30 o'clock.

Luncheon of Y. M. C. A. Club, 47 East Twenty-ninth Street, 1:15 o'clock.

Convention of New York State Shortland Reporters' Association, County Courthouse, 10:30 o'clock.

Luncheon of Rotary Club, Hotel McAlpin, 12:15 o'clock.

Luncheon of Brooklyn Rotary Club, Hotel Bessert, 12 o'clock.

Meeting of National School of Democracy, Hotel Pennsylvania, 3:30 o'clock.

Exhibition of the Pasteur Centenary, New York Academy of Medicine; all day.

NIGHT

Dinner tendered to John P. O'Brien, Hotel Commodore, 6:30 o'clock.

Dinner of American Philosophical Association, Hotel Commodore, 7 o'clock.

Dinner of Clason Military Academy Alumni Society, Hotel Commodore, 7 o'clock.

Christmas concert, Broadway Tabernacle Church, 8:15 o'clock.

Meeting of Traffic Club, Waldorf-Astoria, Address by Julius Hyman on "Intra-Nationalism," Bowery Mission, 8 o'clock.

Prolong Christmas At Children's Parties Of Salvation Army

Thousands of Tenement Youngsters in 4 Boroughs Given Entertainment, Toys and Good Things to Eat

Christmas festivity was a few days late but appreciated nevertheless by the thousands of ragged children who were guests of the Salvation Army yesterday at a series of parties held in Manhattan, Harlem, the Bronx and Brooklyn. The affairs were strictly by invitation, each child having been given his ticket at the time the Christmas dinner baskets were distributed among the homes of the poor last Saturday.

First among the parties was the one in Cooper Union, which Commander Evangeline Booth attended. Her voice showed the effects of her severe illness in Chicago recently, and she spoke with effort. Her message of Christmas cheer and good wishes for the New Year was carried to the extreme end of the hall, and 2,500 voices echoed her greetings.

A delightful entertainment in which a red-nosed juggler bounced iron balls on his head, a clown fell over himself, and a fat man played popular tunes on bells, changing fancy costumes for each song, raised shouts of appreciation from even the smallest children. The Salvation Army officials, many of whom consider the Christmas party as their own annual theater party, enjoyed the program as heartily as the little guests.

The entire audience, at Miss Booth's request, sang Christmas hymns, after which three Santa Clauses tumbled out of the great fireplace erected on the platform. They played leapfrog, and then asked the children to receive their presents. The packages were sorted according to the age and sex of the children, boys' parcels wrapped in blue and girls' in pink paper. The former contained baseball bats, footballs, skates and games. Dolls, doll furniture, dishes and games were given to the little girls. Babies were presented with rag dolls. As each child left the auditorium he received a box of animal crackers, a carton of candy and an orange.

The Bronx party was held at the Bronx Castle Hall; the Harlem party at Laurel Garden, and the Brooklyn party in the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

The festivities will be followed later in the week by the distribution of clothes to the needy.

More than 150 children, ranging in

\$2 a Man, Santa's Gift To Sing Sing Convicts

Santa Claus was good to the bad boys in Sing Sing this year, according to reports made by the authorities yesterday. In the last four days more than \$2,300 in cash has been sent to the prison by relatives and friends for the use of the prisoners. This averages about \$2 a man. The money is placed to the credit of the individual prisoners, who are allowed to order goods from the prison stores and charge their purchases against their accounts.

age from five years to twelve, were entertained by the New York Tuberculosis Association at a Christmas party yesterday afternoon at "Health Corner," 254 First Avenue. "Health Corner" is maintained by the association to feed and care for undernourished children of the tenements. Chew-Chew, the health clown, performed in a most salutary manner, after which a little playlet, written and performed by the children themselves, was given. Cheers mingled with the refreshments that followed.

Dr. Penniman Is Named As Provost of U. of P.

Trustees Also Create Office of 'President'; Action Follows Gen. Wood's Resignation

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 27.—Dr. Josiah H. Penniman today was elected provost, or the "educational head," of the University of Pennsylvania. He had been acting provost since the resignation of Dr. Edgar Fahs Smith three years ago.

At the same time the board of trustees created an "executive administrative" office, to be known as the "president" of the university. Selection of a president was referred to a special committee of five trustees, who were instructed to confer with the subcommittee of the committee of one hundred of the General Alumni Society and report as soon as possible.

To-day's action followed the recent resignation of Major General Leonard Wood as "head" of the university. General Wood was elected about eighteen months ago, but was granted a leave of absence to accept the Governor Generalship of the Philippine Islands. He resigned in order to continue his work there.

Grasping 'Spirits' of Newark Gypsy Get Her Held as Witch

'Visitations' Demanded Too Much to Ward Woman From Catastrophe, So Police 'Visit' Their Owner

Mrs. Lena Dennis, of 618 Springfield Avenue, Newark, says she is a gypsy fortune teller. Newark police, who arrested her yesterday, charge her with witchcraft.

They still believe in witches over in New Jersey. They do not necessarily insist upon the traditional dogma that witches have hooked noses and thin bent bodies, flitting through the skies in the dark of the moon astride a broomstick with a black cat perched on their right shoulders; but there are witches in Jersey jurisprudence, and they have a legal definition.

Police Captain Sebald said yesterday he thought Mrs. Dennis would not qualify for witchcraft under the legal definition, and the charge would probably have to be altered to one of disorderly conduct.

The definition of witchcraft in the law, Captain Sebald said, is based on the allegation that a pretended fortune teller claims to restore stolen goods. The Newark seers made no claim to recovering stolen goods, according to the police.

Mrs. Anna Remacle, of 645 South Fifteenth Street, Newark, is the complainant against Mrs. Dennis. Mrs. Remacle told the police she visited Mrs. Dennis and was proffered a vision of a future filled with gloom and disaster.

Seeking additional details, Mrs. Remacle said she was told it would cost \$5. From this point forward the "spirits" which guided Mrs. Dennis's prognostications became more and more avicious. Mrs. Remacle said she paid \$40 to offset a spell which would have crippled her for life, and was later told \$50 and a fur coat would be needed if the pending catastrophe was to be avoided.

At this point she called in her husband, and not very long afterward Mrs. Dennis was occupied in denying all the charges against her to the police, and explaining the presence in her home of an unusual number of expensive fur garments.

The fortune teller comes up for hearing to-day, either on a witchcraft or a disorderly conduct charge.

Court Agent Going To Question O'Mara If Execution Waits

John W. Davis, as Counsel of Free State, Unable to Get Assurance Life of Witness Will Be Spared

Stephen M. O'Mara, now a prisoner of the Irish Free State, as an irregular, will be examined in Ireland as a witness in the suit brought here in behalf of the Free State to recover about \$2,000,000 collected for the cause of the Republic of Ireland, providing he has not been executed before the arrival of the commission in Ireland.

As to giving an assurance that the Free State government would not execute O'Mara, who has been arrested for his utterances against the new government, John W. Davis, former American Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, who appeared before Justice Mullan yesterday as counsel for the Free State, told the court that it could not be given. Mr. Davis also said that his client would not accede to the request of Martin Conboy, attorney for the De Valera-O'Mara republican element in the action over the funds, that the place of imprisonment of O'Mara be revealed. The former ambassador said that he had sent two cable messages to Dublin on these two points but had not received a reply. Mr. Davis added that he did not think any official of the Free State had the authority to promise that O'Mara would be kept alive until he had been examined in the suit.

Mr. Davis suggested that the place of examination be tentatively fixed as Dublin, with the understanding that if the imprisoned republican leader is not there when the commission arrives an adjournment be taken to the place where O'Mara happens to be, the Free State government having consented to his examination.

Judge Mullan said: "It is extremely doubtful if the Free State would come into this court as a plaintiff and then kill one of the defendants in the suit." He will sign the order for examination. O'Mara is a defendant in the action

by the Free State to obtain money collected in the United States by the Republic of Ireland supporters, because he was one of the trustees of the fund. De Valera being another, and both men acting under the authority of the De Valera-O'Mara element that the De Valera now functioning in Ireland is not the legal successor of the body under whose auspices the money was collected and that this money cannot be used for any other purpose than that for which it was contributed—namely, for the use of the Republic of Ireland. In the mean time the funds are tied up in banks and trust companies in this city under an injunction obtained by the Free State.

'Matinee Burglar' Denied Bail Despite Atonement

Efforts to Help Police Locate \$200,000 Loot Win Him No Sympathy in Court

Despite the plea of his attorney that he had aided the police in every possible way in recovering stolen property, Thomas F. Belford, twenty-three years old, of 169 West Sixty-second Street, charged with robbery, was denied bail yesterday by Magistrate Levine in West Side court, and was held for the action of the grand jury. Belford, known as the "matinee burglar," was arrested last Friday while attempting to rob the apartment of Mrs. Sadie Bennett, at 305 West Ninety-second Street, and is said by the police to have admitted about a hundred burglaries, totaling \$200,000 in property.

Belford, who is a well-dressed young man of athletic build, was as immaculate in court as he was when arrested in spite of his several days in jail. Several women were on hand to see if they could connect him with robberies in their homes, and as he was being led to the bar Mrs. Florence A. Trimble,

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FACTS about PAPER

NO. 50

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of 54 West Fifty-fifth Street, asked him if he had robbed her home on November 5. He declared that he had carefully gone over in his mind while in jail the places he had entered and he was quite certain that hers was not one of them.

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